

Nancy M Cappello, Ph.D.  
Senate Committee on Health Policy  
SB 879 – Breast Density Reporting  
May 3, 2014

Compelled to action because of the **inaction of the medical community to inform women about this fatal flaw in breast cancer screening**, I founded two nonprofit organizations, **Are You Dense, Inc. and Are You Dense Advocacy, Inc.**, which **has fueled a grass-roots movement across this country of patients turned advocates** - a testament to the fact that there is no shortage of women harmed by their dense tissue.


Following CTs leadership, legislative champions, inspired by advocates, enacted **breast density legislation in 15 states** (Texas in 2011; followed by Virginia, New York and California in 2012, Maryland, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Pennsylvania in 2013, New Jersey and Arizona in 2014). An additional **12 states**, including Michigan have introduced **density reporting bills in 2014**.

**Women can only rely on what their doctors choose to reveal to them.** Unless density reporting is standardized, too many women will falsely have confidence in their 'normal' mammography report and yet in reality their report is far from normal. **Later stage cancers are more costly to treat, convey fewer treatment options and poorer survival outcomes.**

Your affirmative support of **SB 879** will **give women of Michigan critical information about their dense breast tissue so they may make an informed decision as they participate in discussions with their health care providers about their personal breast screening surveillance.** Michigan resident **Teresa Hendricks-Pitsch**, whose late stage cancer was missed by mammography because of her dense breast tissue, **never had that opportunity.**

I commend Senator Hildenbrand for bringing this critical breast health issue to the committee and ask the committee for its support of **SB 879**.

Sincerely



Nancy M Cappello, Ph.D.  
Director and Founder  
Are You Dense Advocacy, Inc.

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